South Llano River Flood

May 24 – 25, 2010

On Monday, May 24, moist south-southeast low level flow was in place over west central Texas. A strong upper low tracked from the Four-Corners region to the central Rockies Monday afternoon. Although the main lift from this feature was to the north and northwest of west central Texas, its interaction with a moist and increasingly uncapped airmass allowed scattered showers and thunderstorms to develop across the northwest Hill Country and Edwards Plateau.

On the evening of May 24, heavy rain showers developed around 6 pm in northern Edwards County over the headwaters of the South Llano River. From 6 pm on the 24th to 2 am on the 25th, over eight inches of rain fell in northern Edwards County (see Figures 1 through 10). An observer located 5.4 miles northwest of Rocksprings reported 8.04 inches (CoCoRaHS Network). Much of the runoff from this rain made it to the South Llano River. By 9 am on the 25th, the flood waters began to arrive at Telegraph (see Figure 11). The staff gage on the South Llano River at Telegraph (TZCT2) began to rise from 2 feet at 9 am, to a crest of just over 18 feet by 11:30 am. The South Llano River State Park reported that the flood waters began to arrive at the park's low water crossing entrance around 1:11 pm. By 1:30 pm, the water was over the road and measured 6 feet on the staff gage. The park officials estimated that the river crested between 4 pm and 5 pm at about 11 feet. The flood waters continued downstream to the confluence with the North Llano River and arrived at the Llano River streamgage (JNCT2 – near abandoned County Road 310 crossing) starting around 4 pm. The river at JNCT2 climbed from about 2 feet at 3:45 pm to a crest of 13.2 feet (18,350 cfs) at 6:30 PM, on May 25th.
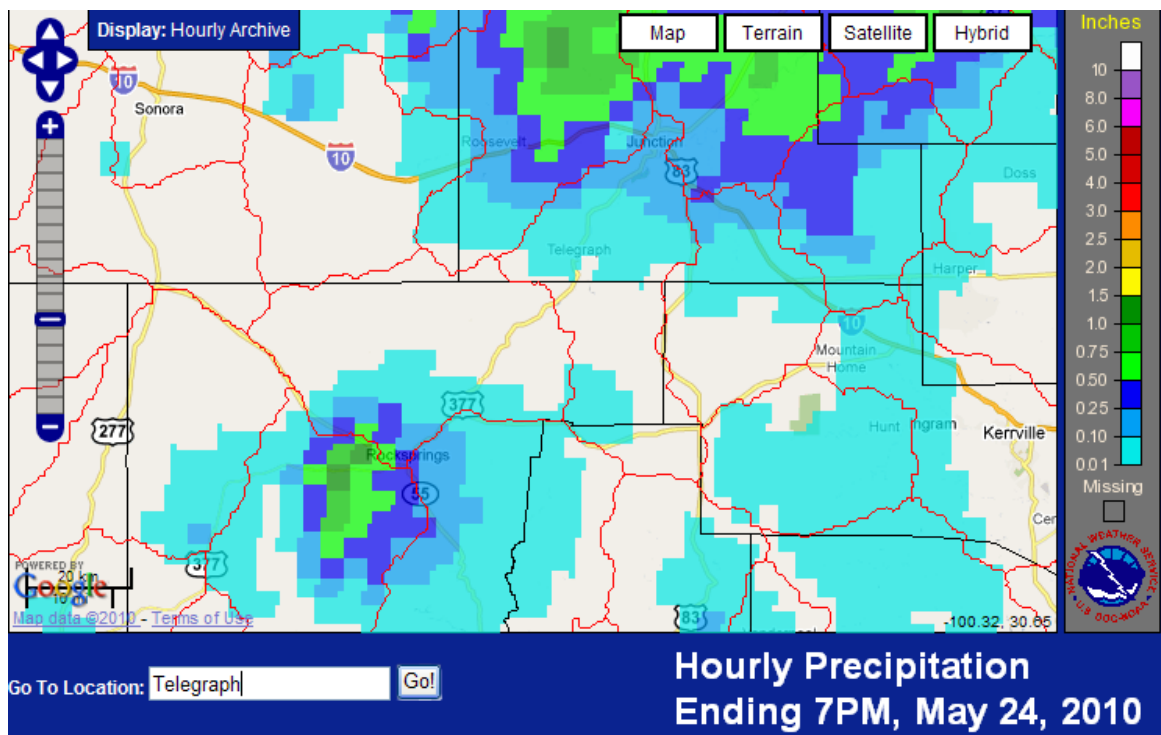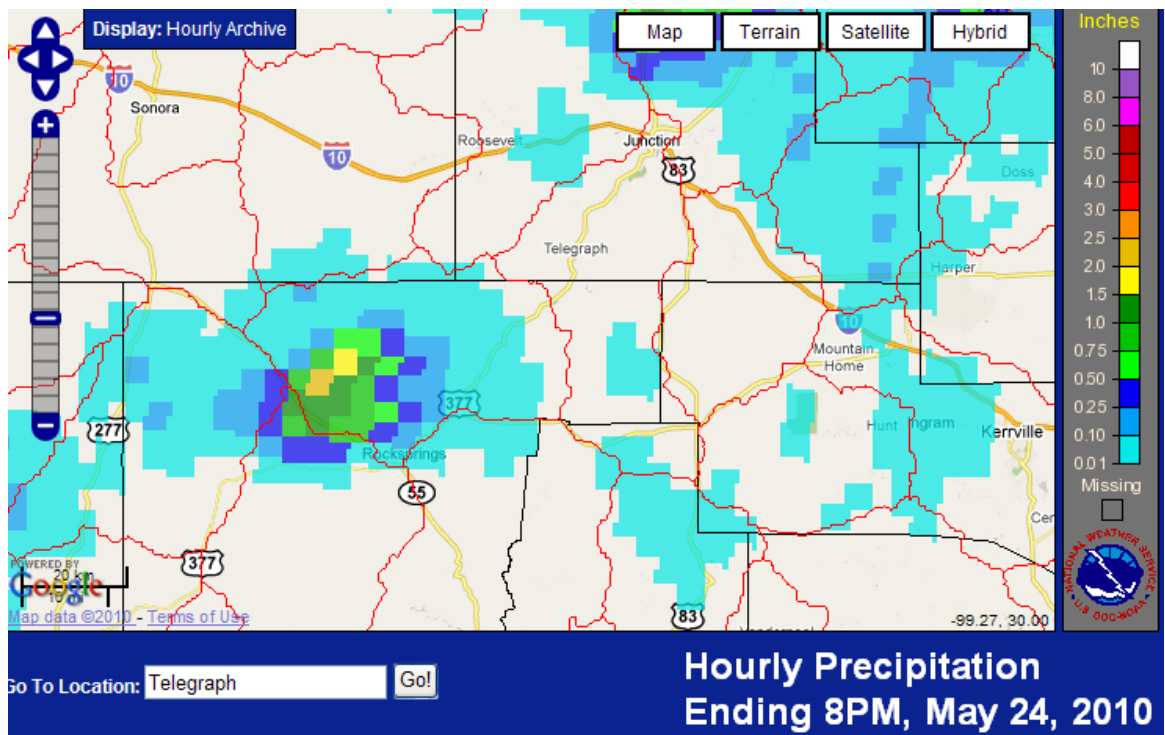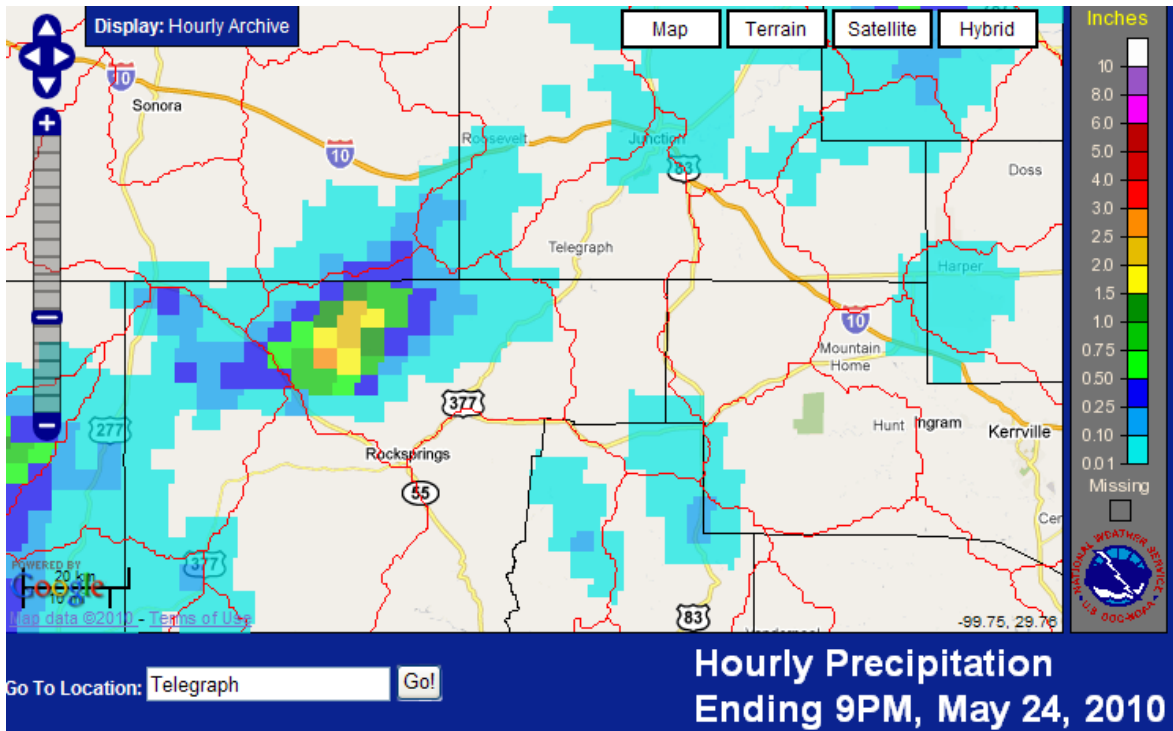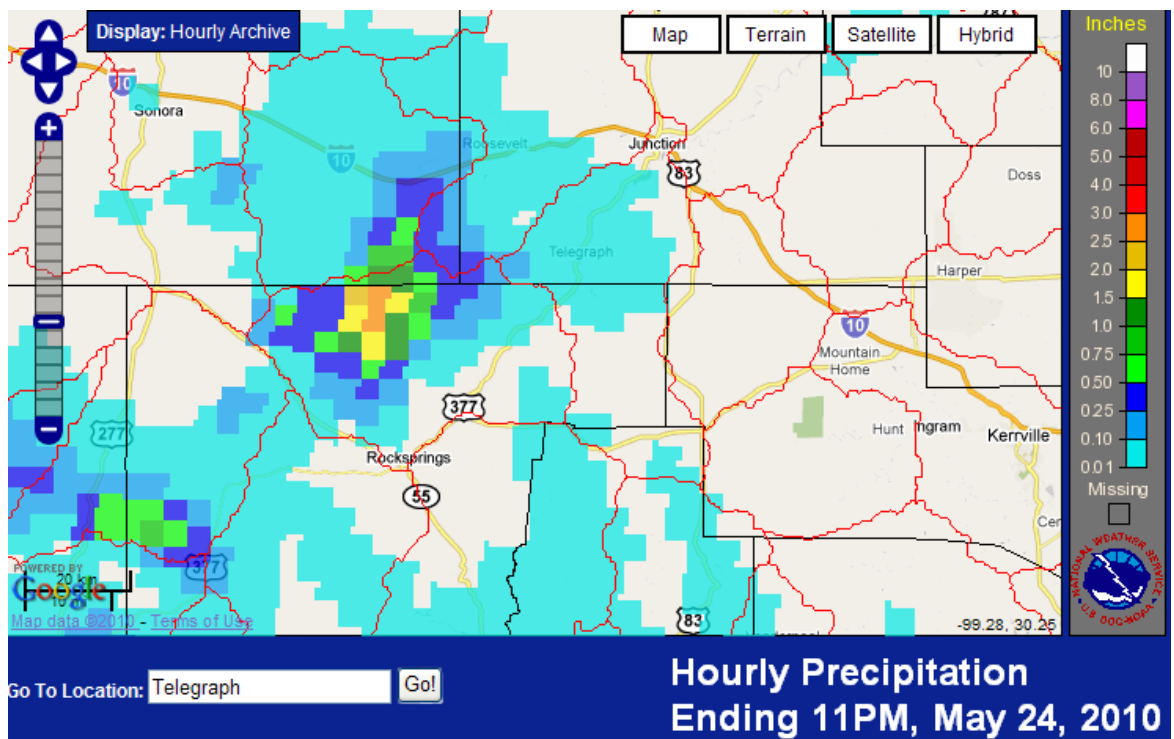

Figure 1

Figure 2

Figure 3
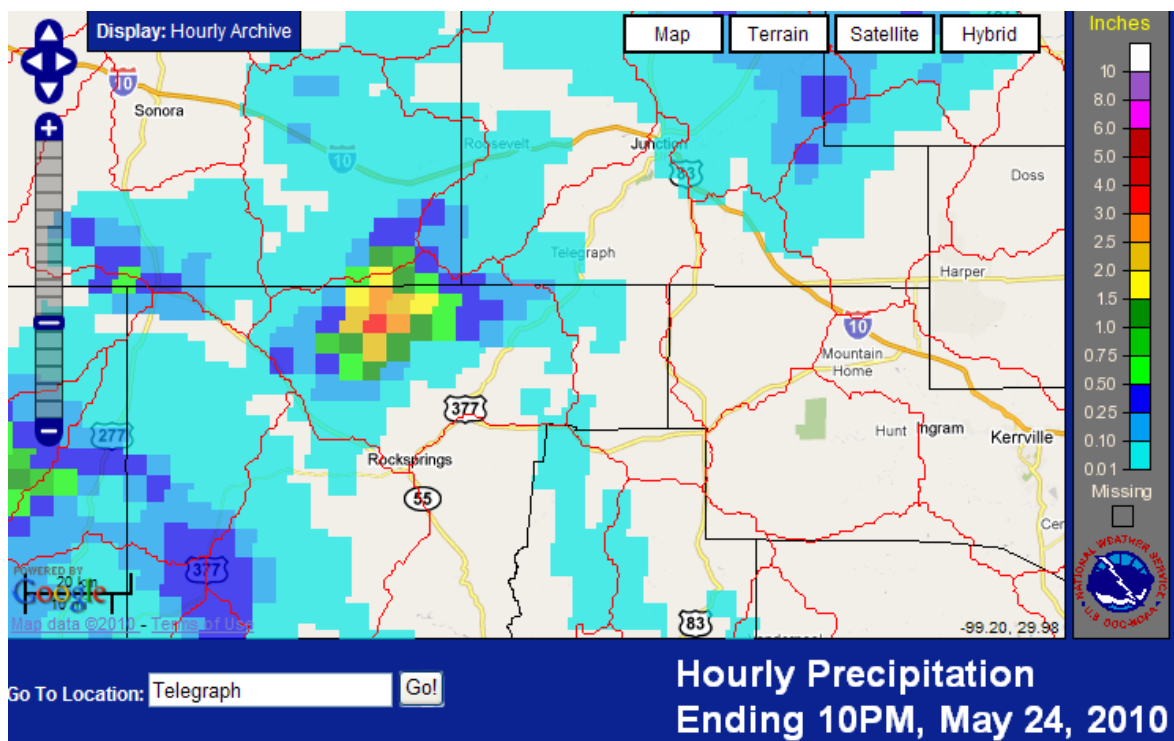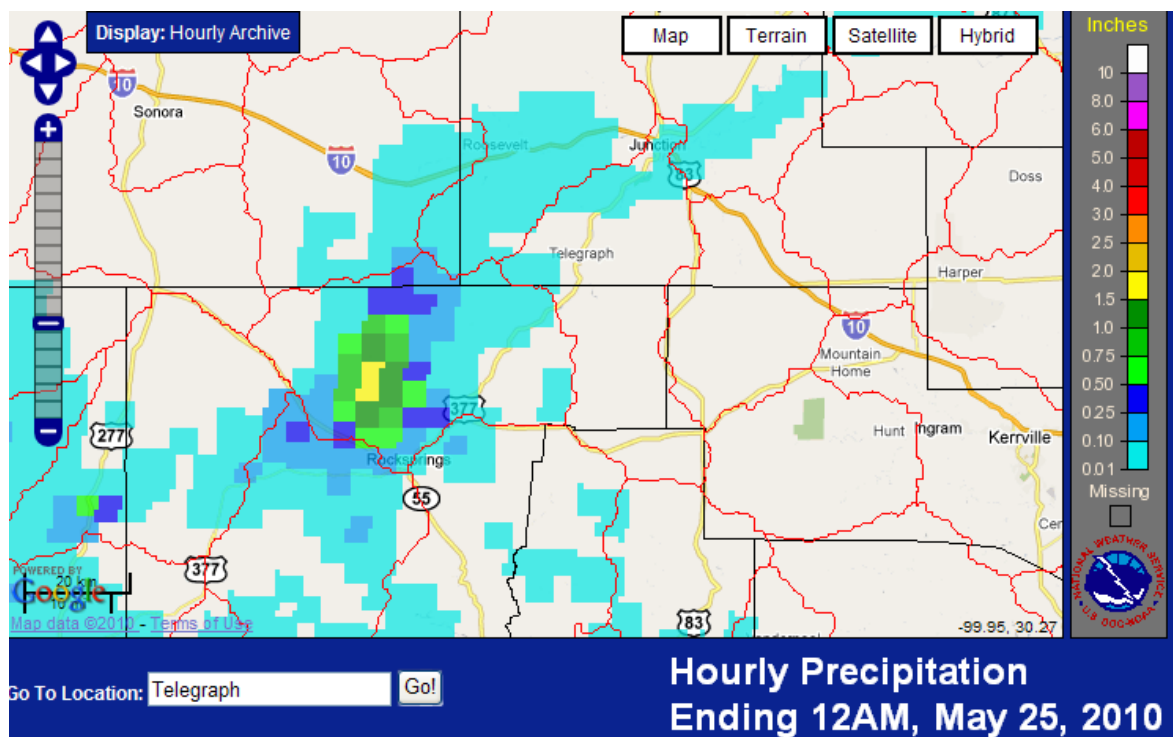
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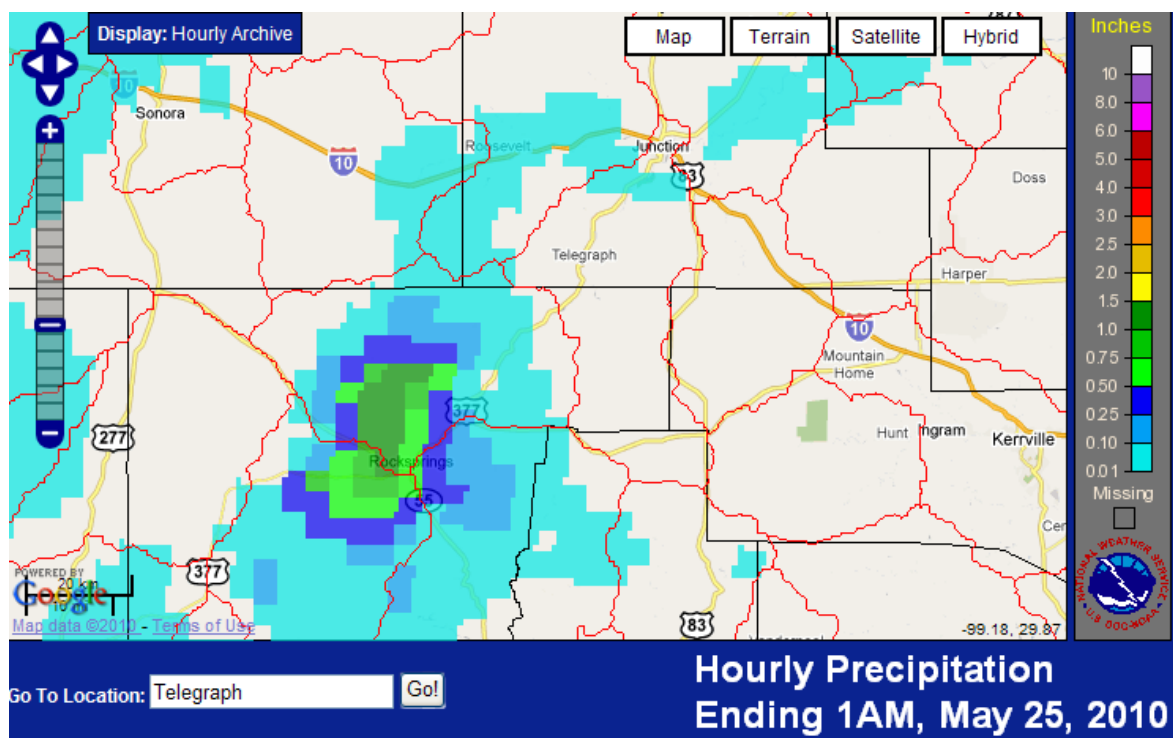
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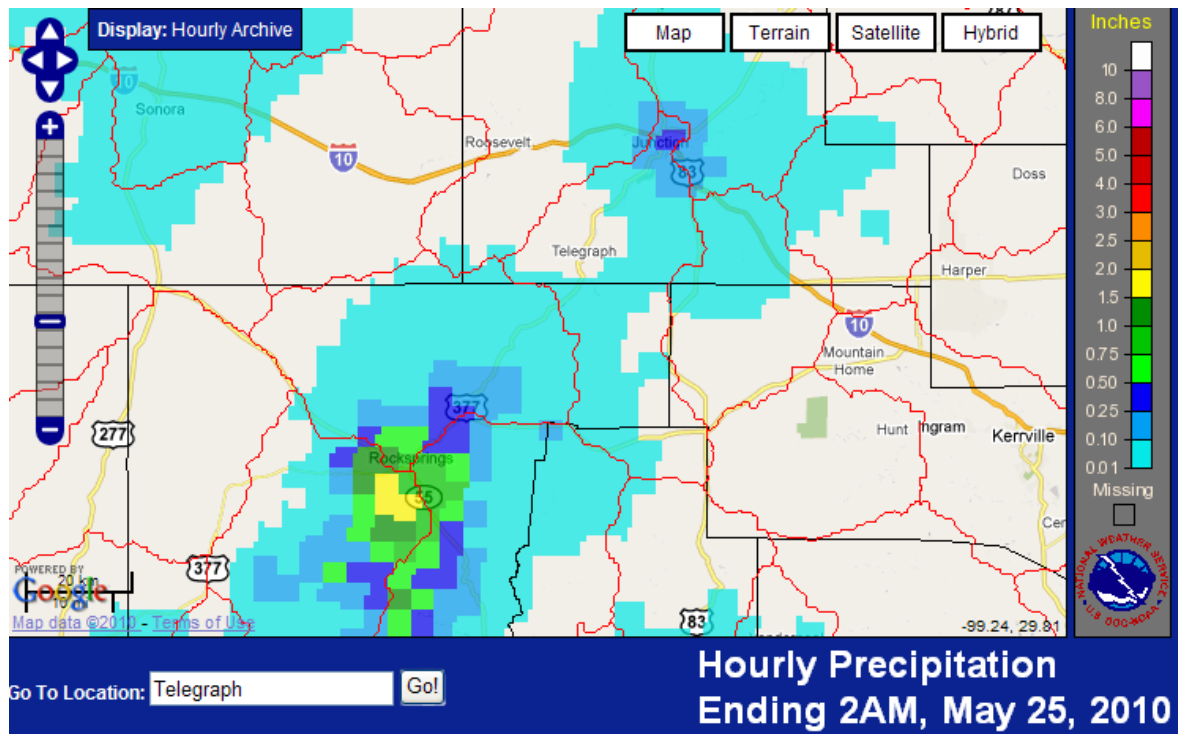
Figure 6

Figure 7

Figure 8
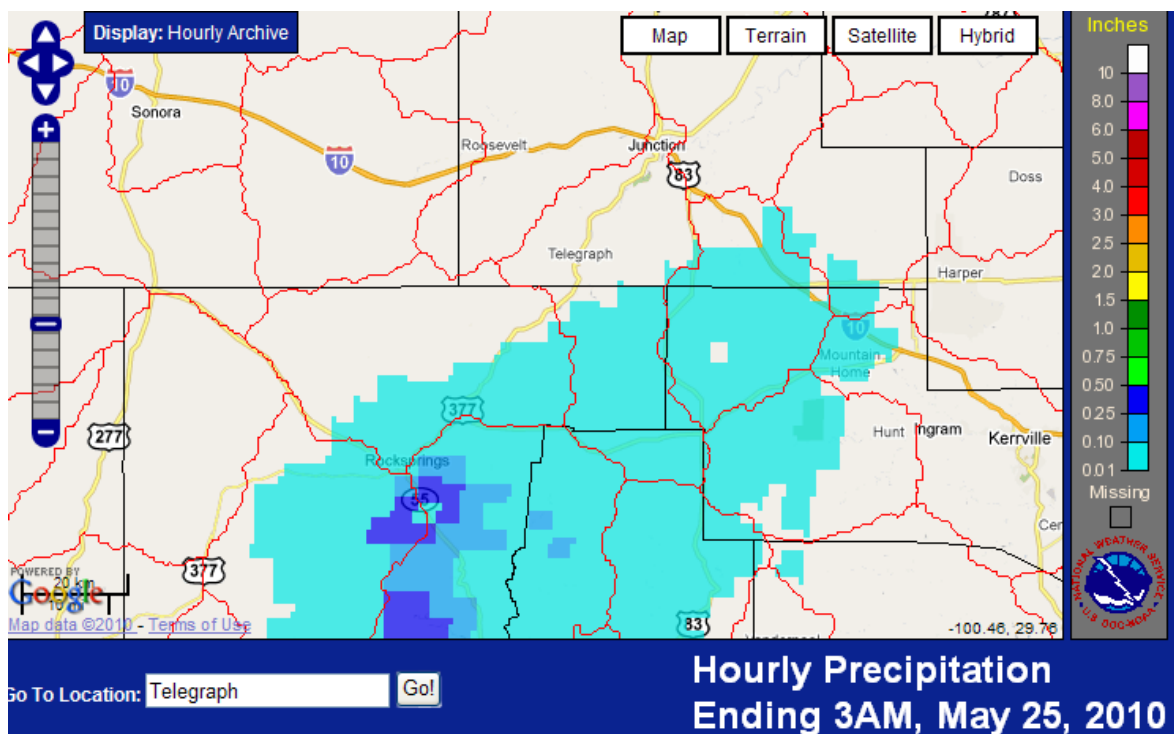
Figure 9

Figure 10

Figure 11